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Maestro Peter Nero to Lead Three Philly POPS Concert Series and Holiday Pops in 2012-2013 Concert Season

Marvin Hamlisch and Michael Krajewski will serve as guest conductors

PHILADELPHIA, PA – Encore Series, Inc., presenter of Peter Nero and The Philly POPS, and Peter Nero announced today they have a Settlement Agreement that was filed today in federal court. The two-time Grammy winning conductor and pianist Peter Nero will serve in his new position as Artistic Director for the upcoming 2012-2013 concert season, including conducting three concert series, the nine highly-popular holiday concert spectacles and the 4th of July celebration.

The announcement followed the approval of an amended contract agreement between Encore Series, Inc. (Encore) and Peter Nero, which addresses the financial realities facing the organization as it emerges from bankruptcy. Maestro Nero has approved the terms of his new agreement appointing him Artistic Director and Principal Conductor for the 2012-2013 season. He will then assume the title and position of Music Director Emeritus of The Philly POPS beginning in July 2013.

“We are thrilled to have Maestro Peter Nero return as our Artistic Director for one more year and conduct three of our upcoming concert series, as well as our Holiday Pops concerts,” said Frank Giordano, President and CEO of Encore Series, Inc. “We appreciate all that Peter has done for the arts and music culture in Philadelphia, and we are pleased that his fans will have the opportunity to see Peter Nero and The Philly POPS for another season. Encore is a fantastic organization filled with so many people who are dedicated to sharing the pops orchestra experience with our patrons. We are looking forward to presenting The Philly POPS for many more years to come.”

“The last 33 years have been the most gratifying years of my musical life. This orchestra has spoiled me since they are unique among orchestras in their enthusiasm, love of music, versatility, spirit and skill. When I call them the greatest orchestra of its kind in the entire cosmos, I am being sincere and accurate,” said Maestro Nero. “The Philly POPS will always be a part of me and I am committed to its future success. I want our subscribers, patrons and fans to know that I am committed to making each performance of this upcoming season an unforgettable experience.”

Stephen Packman, counsel to Encore and Paul Rosen, counsel to Peter Nero, want to thank George Cohen of the Federal Mediation & Conciliation service. They agree that without his help it would have been difficult for the parties to have finalized the settlement.

During the 2012-2013 concert season, Nero will conduct ***Dancing and Romancing on October 12, 13, and 14.*** The series is a tribute to Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers that features the elegance of two renowned dancers set to songs by the greatest songwriters of their day.

Nero will then conduct the orchestra for ***Mostly Gershwin on February 8, 9, and 10,*** a series that will feature guest jazz pianist Marcus Roberts, chosen by Maestro Nero for his inventive interpretation of the *Rhapsody in Blue*. “Dueling pianos” will follow.

To close the season, Maestro Nero will also lead The POPS orchestra in the series ***Super Pops! Broadway on May 10, 11, and 12,*** where the members of this great orchestra will share the solo spotlight with the Maestro at the piano.

During the holiday season, Nero will lead the highly popular ***Holiday Pops*** series featuring the return of spectacular vocalist Capathia Jenkins, The POPS Festival Chorus, The Philadelphia Boys Choir, The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas Gospel Choir, and organist Peter Conte. A cast of 300! Concerts are scheduled for **December 7, 8, 9, 12, 14, 15, 16, 19, and 22.**

In addition to Maestro Nero’s concerts, award-winning composer **Marvin Hamlisch** and celebrated symphonic pops conductor **Michael Krajewski** have been invited to each serve as a guest conductor for a full concert series this season.

Marvin Hamlisch – winner of three Oscars, four Grammys, four Emmys, a Tony and three Golden Globe awards – will conduct the ***Bond and Beyond concert series on April 26, 27, and 28.*** Hamlisch co-wrote “Nobody Does It Better” from the James Bond film *The Spy Who Loved Me*, Bond 77/Bond Theme, as well as the orchestral/disco score of the film. The series will also feature sultry soprano Debbie Gravitte, always an audience favorite.

Michael Krajewski -- the principal pops conductor of the Houston Symphony, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, and the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra – will be the guest conductor of the ***Lennon and McCartney concert series on March 15, 16, and 17.*** The series will feature the return of members of “Classical Mystery Tour”, and present a POPS recreation of Beatles songs such as Penny Lane, Yesterday, and I Am the Walrus.

Series subscriptions are now currently for sale through The Philly POPS website at www.phillypops.org or by phone at 215.893.1955. Single ticket sales will begin August 20.

About The Philly POPS:

Now in its 34th year, The Philly POPS under the artistic direction of Peter Nero and presented by Encore Series, Inc., is a one-of-a kind orchestra that performs a wide variety of musical genres in Verizon Hall at The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts and around the Tri-State region, entertaining audiences with its eclectic mix. The Philly POPS orchestra boasts a blend of talented musicians from the musically rich Philadelphia region. For more information about The Philly POPS and its 2012-2013 season schedule, please visit www.phillypops.org.

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